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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/600,416	06/19/2003	Claude L. Rickerd	11534US.00	7010	
33486 75	90 03/23/2006		EXAM	· EXAMINER	
	R & ASSOC., LLC.		WITCZAK, C	CATHERINE	
6125 SALVIA I ARVADA, CO			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
	00.00		3767 •		

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		$\omega$	
	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/600,416	RICKERD, CLAUDE L.	
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Catherine N. Witczak	3767	
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap Period for Reply	opears on the cover sheet wi	th the correspondence address	
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REP WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING I Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory perior.  Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statu. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mail earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	DATE OF THIS COMMUNIO  1.136(a). In no event, however, may a red  d will apply and will expire SIX (6) MON  tte. cause the application to become AB	CATION.  pply be timely filed  IHS from the mailing date of this communication.  ANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).	
Status			
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20	March 2006.		
	is action is non-final.		
3) Since this application is in condition for allow			
closed in accordance with the practice under	Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D	. 11, 453 O.G. 213.	
Disposition of Claims			
4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application	on.		
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdr	awn from consideration.		
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.			
6) Claim(s) is/are rejected.			
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.	e election requirement		
8)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-15</u> are subject to restriction and/o	or election requirement.	·	-
Application Papers			
9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Exami			
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)☐ a			
Applicant may not request that any objection to the	ne drawing(s) be held in abeyar	ice. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).	,
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the	ection is required if the drawing Examiner. Note the attache	(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d) d Office Action or form PTO-152.	).
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119			
12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreignal ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:	gn priority under 35 U.S.C. {	§ 119(a)-(d) or (f).	
1. Certified copies of the priority docume	ents have been received.		
2. Certified copies of the priority docume	ents have been received in A		
3. Copies of the certified copies of the pr		received in this National Stage	
application from the International Bure			
* See the attached detailed Office action for a li	ist of the certified copies not	received.	
	•		
Attachment(s)	4) 🗍 Interview	Summary (PTO-413)	
<ol> <li>Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> </ol>	Paper No	s)/Mail Date	
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/Paper No(s)/Mail Date	08) 5)	informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	

Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20060320

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A telephone call was made to Reed Heimbecher on 3/20/2206 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and

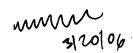
(ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

## Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a connection system, classified in class 604, subclass 246.
  - II. Claims 9-15, drawn to an adapter fitting, classified in class 604, subclass 523.
- 2. Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in



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other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because a different adapter can be used. The subcombination has separate utility such as being used by any fluid valve connection system.

3. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine N. Witczak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4959. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cw mmm 3/10/06

Sharon Kennedy Primary Examiner